



**Wyoming
Department of Agriculture**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wyoming Board of Agriculture Elects New President and Vice President and Welcomes New Members

Cheyenne (April 16, 2009) – Early this week at the Wyoming Board of Agriculture meeting, members elected Joe Thomas of District 5 president and Jim Bennage of District 4 vice president of the Board.

Also at the meeting, four new members joined the Wyoming Board of Agriculture after being appointed by the governor. Bryan Brost of Lusk representing District 6, Shaun Sims of Evanston representing District 3, James Hodder of Farson representing District 2 and Jim Price Jr. of Casper representing District 7 will be serving a term of six years.

After a lifetime of ranching near Lusk, Wyoming, Bryan Brost joins the Board of Agriculture. Along with the Board of Agriculture, Brost is a member of BPOE and the Eagles. Brost also spent time as a Peace Corps volunteer in Iran from 1964-1966.

Shaun Sims joins the Board of Agriculture with years of experience as the Owner/operator of the Sims Sheep Co. LLC in Southwest Wyoming. Sims has also served as WACD Vice President and Area Director, UCCD Chairman, as well as a member of the Coalition of Local Governments, Wyoming Stockgrowers Association and a WNRFB Board member.

James Hodder brings a lot of agriculture experience to the Board of Agriculture. Hodder runs a ranch where he has ran 200 colonies of bees for retail honey, raised alfalfa and malt barley as well as fed cattle on a background basis. He was the chairman of the Sweetwater County Weed & Pest District, served as chairman on the Sweetwater County Conservation District and is a member of the Sweetwater County Farm Service Agency.

Jim Price Jr. comes to the Board of Agriculture after a lifetime of ranching. For the last 15 years, Price has operated the family feedlot west of Casper. Along with his experience as a rancher, he has also served as a Natrona County F.S.A. board member.

The Board of Agriculture enforces the rules and regulations of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. The eleven member board is appointed by the governor to represent geographical areas of the state.